Development of Padmakesharpur as Tourist Place

4704. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Padmakesharpur village near Bhubaneswar in Orissa is said to be the largest 'Snake-Charmers' village in Asia;

(b) wheter Government consider that such a village can be developed as a tourist centre with great advantage; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take to make the village a tourist place?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Development of Tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for specific tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them every year based on the merits of the projects and the availability of funds.

No proposal for development of Padmakesharpur village near Bhubaneswar as a tourist place was prioritised during 1999-2000.

Water Scarcity for Drinking and Irrigation Purposes

4705. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the recently Second World Water Forum at Hague has predicted that by 2025 the world population of about eight billion people will face severe water scarcity for irrigation, sanitation and drinking purposes;

(b) if so, what steps Government are adopting to tide over such an eventuality in the country; and

(c) what are the details and which agencies would be undertaking this gigantic job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir.